

component comprises a pin-component lead, wherein the pin-component lead is directed from the top surface into a pin hole, and wherein the pin hole extends from the top surface to the bottom surface; and

- (e) wave soldering the bottom surface, wherein the pin-in-hole component is mechanically and electrically affixed to the printed circuit board, and wherein the bottom component is further affixed to the printed circuit board by the wave soldering.

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are currently pending.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Igarashi.

Applicants respectfully traverse the §112 and §103(a) rejections with the following arguments.

35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner alleges that “[c]laim 5 recites ‘forming a pair of first and second electrodes: It is not clear to exact number of electrodes that are formed on the side ends of the assembly. As best understood the examiner has taken the pair to mean two electrodes formed on one end of the

assembly.”

In response, Applicants respectfully point out that claim 5 does not recite “forming a pair of first and second electrodes.” Thus Applicants maintain that the rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is improper.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner alleges that “Igarashi discloses a varistor chip comprising: a number of conductive pattern layers stacked between upper and lower portions in a ceramic body (2,3); forming a pair of first and second outer electrodes surrounding the ends of the varistor chip to be connected to the inner electrodes (4,6); forming a mask for preventing glass from being penetrated toward the inner electrodes wherein a polymer is used on the lower end of the first electrode (5); dipping the first outer electrode into a glass paste (column 12 lines 6-7); flowing the glass in a thermal treatment (column 12 lines 6-19).”

The Examiner alleges that “Igarashi discloses the material of the glass paste and the electrode. Igarashi fails to disclose the exact glass material and the paste. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made that the particulars of the material being at a certain percentile is clearly a matter of design choice. The selection of material in order to make the electrode is also clearly a design choice since no significant problems are solved. It appears that the prior art material would work equally as well versus material of different composition such.”

The Examiner rejected claims 8-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) alleging “where Igarashi is relied upon as above for disclosing a chip varistor.”

Applicants respectfully contend that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Igarashi is improper, because the Examiner has not reasonably identified the references of Hashimoto and Igarashi. The Examiner has not indicated whether Hashimoto and Igarashi are patents or another form of printed publication. If Hashimoto and Igarashi are patents, the Examiner has not indicated the patent numbers of Hashimoto and Igarashi. Applicants have searched and found 1,989 patents with an inventor name of "Hashimoto" during 1996-2002. Applicants have searched and found 582 patents with an inventor name of "Igarashi" during 1996-2002. Applicants have no reasonable way of identifying the references of Hashimoto and Igarashi. Additionally, the Examiner's analysis of Hashimoto and Igarashi seem unrelated to the content of claims 1-16. Thus Applicants respectfully maintain that the rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is improper.

CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that claims 1-16 meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invites the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

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